

REMARKS

This Amendment, Response, and Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 is being submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed May 19, 2005. Claims 1-33 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sistanizadeh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,548) (hereinafter referred to as '548). Claims 7 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548. Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ". Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" in further view of "TCP/IP Networking Concepts". Finally, Claims 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,446) (hereinafter referred to as '446).

In response to these rejections, Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 28, and 29 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and Claims 13, 15, 18, 25-27, and 30-33 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sistanizadeh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,548) (hereinafter referred to as '548).

In response to this rejection, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. A method of managing a telecommunications network, comprising:

retrieving, through a management system, a current set of identifiers from a network device;
said identifiers comprising *at least two physical identifiers* and *at least one logical identifier*, and
authenticating an identity of the network device using the current set of identifiers.

Similar amendments have been made to independent Claims 6, 12, 28, and 29, all of which recite the use of at least two physical identifiers and, in most cases, at least one logical identifier. Independent Claims 27 and 30 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits.

Examiner indicates that '548 discloses a method for managing a telecommunications network using authentication of a set of stored identifiers comprising a management system retrieving a current set of identifiers from a network device and authenticating an identity of the network device using the current set of identifiers, the DHCP server receiving a request and authenticating a requesting computer based upon a MAC address (column 9, line 64). Examiner also indicates that the current set of identifiers may include two identifiers, a physical identifier and a logical identifier (the MAC address and a Login and Password) (column 10, line 34).

However, '548 does not disclose the use of at least two unique, separate, and distinct physical identifiers, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example. This use of two physical identifiers provides many advantages. As described in the Specification, using multiple physical identifiers to uniquely identify network devices provides fault tolerance and supports the modularity of electronic hardware (e.g., cards) within a network device (page 252). That is, using multiple physical identifiers for authentication allows for the fact that cards associated with the physical identifiers may be removed from the network device (page 252).

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 12-21, 25, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sistanizadeh et al. has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 7 and 29 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 7 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548.

Applicants request that Examiner take note that, with respect to the updating of the stored initial set of identifiers with any of the retrieved current set of identifiers that do not match the stored initial identifiers (Claims 7 and 9), '548 does not teach or suggest the updating of a stored physical or logical initial set of identifiers with any of a retrieved logical or physical current set of identifiers that do not match the stored initial identifiers. Likewise, Examiner's official notice as to adding/changing computer account information identifiers (such as a MAC address) by use of a Login and Password, deals only with authentication using a logical identifier and the updating of a physical identifier. The present invention contemplates, among other things, authentication using a first physical identifier and the updating of a second physical identifier, providing all of the advantages described above.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 7 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 8 and 9 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ".

The above arguments apply with equal force here.

Rejection of Claims 10 and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '548 in view of "NetLinker FAQ" in further view of "TCP/IP Networking Concepts".

The above arguments apply with equal force here.

Rejection of Claims 22-24 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Finally, Claims 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,446) (hereinafter referred to as '446).

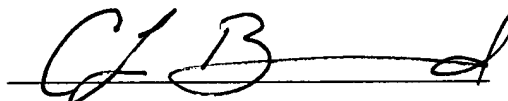
The above arguments apply with equal force here.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper (**one-month extension**). However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 7, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CLB', followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

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